

1998
JUL 17 1998

Mr. Jeff Saitas
Executive Director
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
P. O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Saitas:

I am pleased to inform you EPA Region 6 has approved the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC) revision request to exempt portions of two aquifers for the purposes of uranium mining. These exemptions are specific to:

- 1) that portion of the Oakville Sandstone Formation, underlying approximately 842 acres, at a depth of 150 to 210 feet subsurface, ten miles south-southeast of the City of Bruni in Duval County, Texas (a. k. a. the Vasquez Project); and
- 2) that portion of the Goliad Formation, underlying approximately 70 acres, at a depth of 140 to 260 feet subsurface, 11 miles northwest of the City of San Diego in Duval County, Texas (a. k. a. the Rosita Project).

The areal extent of the Vasquez and Rosita projects' exemptions are specifically defined in the Uranium Resources Incorporated (URI) applications as initially conveyed by TNRCC to Region 6 on September 17, 1997, and February 4, 1998, respectively. The Rosita Project is an extension to an exemption approved by Region 6 in October, 1988. Region 6 has approved these exemptions as non-substantial revisions to the TNRCC's Underground Injection Control program.

These approvals are based upon the criteria stipulated in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations §146.4; wherein a portion of an aquifer may be exempted if: (a) that portion does not currently serve as a source of drinking water; and (b) it cannot now and will not, in the future, serve as a source of drinking water, because the aquifer is mineral producing or can be shown to contain minerals that are expected to be commercially producible. The record shows that these criteria have been met.

These exemptions apply only to the injection of fluids into those portions of the Oakville Sandstone and Goliad Formations as proposed in the applications. Injection of other fluids (e. g. hazardous wastes) or injection of fluids into other formations that qualify as underground sources of drinking water would require additional approval.

6WQ-SG:6/18/98:LEISSNER:RL:\TNRCC\aquifer.xmp\Vasrosit.xmp:FILE CODE WAT-6-6-9

6WQ-SG 6WQ-S 6RC
DELLINGER WRIGHT PACE
201 11 01 L.W. [Signature]

New File

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact me or have your staff contact Larry Wright, Chief, Source Water Protection Branch at (214) 665-7150.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Hathaway
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

cc: Ms. Alice Rogers
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Mr. John Santos
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

bcc: Bob Blanco (4606)
Connie Bosma (4606)